

highlights



Rep. Micon recently led 100 hikers in **Prophetstown State Park's first INShape Indiana Walk**. The two mile walk is part of the Healthy Parks-Healthy People initiative promoted by the Department of Natural Resources and the State Department of Health. Gov. Mitch Daniels began INShape Indiana to help Hoosiers improve their health through exercise. Joining Rep. Micon are his wife Jo, daughter Katie and son Jonathan. Additional information about INShape Indiana can be found at <http://www.in.gov/inshape/>.



Rep. Micon shares a moment of conversation with **Past Polish President Lech Walesa** during Walesa's recent visit to Purdue. Mr. Walesa's comments about the need for greater international communication and cooperation were well-received by a standing-room-only crowd at Loeb Playhouse.



Rep. Micon visits with **Wea Ridge Elementary School** fourth grade students, parents and teachers during their recent trip to the statehouse. Along with visiting the Indiana House Chamber, they toured the Indiana Senate Chamber, Supreme Courtroom and Governor's Office. Micon also recently spoke with fourth grade visitors from **Happy Hallow and Battleground Elementary Schools**. School or youth group tours of your statehouse can be arranged by calling 317/233-5293 or by sending a request to Captours@idoa.state.in.us

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Representative Joe Micon

Fighting for Jobs



Improving Education



Helping Hoosier Families



Property Tax Relief



Representative Joe Micon

Indiana House of Representatives

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2006 Session Report

Additional Property Tax RELIEF

At the start of the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly, property tax relief was identified as a priority by members of both parties. When the smoke cleared, we were able to provide some relief for homeowners.



Rep. Micon In 2007, the state homestead deduction will increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for one year only. This relief will provide an additional \$127 million in relief for homeowners.

While this relief is welcome, it still does not make up for the massive increases in local property taxes that I voted against in our 2005 state budget. That budget increased the burden on local property taxpayers to the tune of an estimated \$850 million.

FUNERAL PROTESTS

New legislation increases the penalty for disorderly conduct occurring near the location of a funeral, memorial service, or viewing. The bill is largely in response to a group from Kansas that has chosen to stage protests at the funerals of Hoosier soldiers killed in action, using the occasion to make a political statement.



Improving Education

K-12 education legislation gains approval

Strengthening K-12 education remains one of the most important responsibilities of the Indiana General Assembly. From his seat on the House Education Committee, Rep. Micon played an important role in the shaping of several new education laws:

- SEA 111** expands the federal free breakfast program to more students in Indiana and requires that a certain percentage of food and beverage items in school vending machines qualify as healthy snacks.
- HEA1001** allocates \$48 million to meet 2006 deficiency payments to our schools.
- HEA 1093** enhanced penalties for possessing a knife on school property or on a school bus. The measure also adds battery and harassment against a school employee to the list of offenses that must be reported to a local law enforcement agency.
- HEA1240** makes Indiana's ISTEP+ Program the subject of a comprehensive study by the Indiana Department of Education with recommendations due back to the legislature in November. The bill also reinstated Indiana's Teacher Mentor Program which provides professional development for new teachers.
- HEA 1347** addresses the high school drop out crisis by making it more difficult for a student to quit school and by requiring schools to offer better support systems.

Rep. Micon especially appreciates the leadership of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Sue Ellen Reed. "Her ability to craft compromise and work with legislators from both sides of the aisle helped many of these good bills to become law."

College Savings and Purdue Repairs

Rep. Micon helped pass HEA1029 which establishes Indiana's new 20 percent college savings tax credit—a significant incentive to Hoosier families saving for higher education. The bill also allows **Purdue** to bond for up to \$60 million for much-needed repair and rehabilitation of university buildings. He supported SEA345 which allocates \$8 million in direct state payments for repair and rehab of those buildings.



Reps. Micon, Klinker and Purdue Executive VP and Treasurer Morgan Olsen visit with Neil Armstrong during the recent ribbon cutting for the new Birck Nanotechnology Center at Purdue's Discovery Park.

Bringing jobs to our community

Rep. Micon continues to work in a bi-partisan way to create and keep good jobs in our community and state. He helped pass the 50 percent Indiana sales tax credit for businesses that purchase research and development equipment, and voted to extend the use of tax abatements and TIF districts as economic development tools for local governments. Purdue Research Park businesses like **Butler Engineering and Cook Biotech** are attracted to our community and find this a good place to grow and expand because of these incentives.

Rep. Micon also voted to help Gov. Daniels' create the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and for the single sales factor for calculating corporate income tax. Both were instrumental in bringing **1,000 new Toyota Camry jobs** to Lafayette's Subaru of America plant.

While serving on the House Technology Committee Rep. Micon played an active role in the shaping of telecom deregulation in Indiana. The net result will be more telecommunication services provided sooner, at a faster speed, lower cost, and to more Hoosier businesses and homes than ever before. As a direct result of this bill, SBC has announced plans to extend low-cost broadband internet service to businesses and homes in the **Town of Otterbein** in the very near future.



Congratulations to **Lilly's Tippecanoe Labs** on receiving recognition for a half century of business in Indiana. Vince Kochert and Peter Gatchell are pictured receiving the award from Gov. Daniels and Lt. Gov. Skillman with Reps. Micon and Klinker. Also pictured is Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski.

Micon votes for non-partisan redistricting

A bill to end political gerrymandering in Indiana passed the House of Representatives this session but failed to receive a hearing in the Indiana Senate. The bill would have replaced the current process of partisan-drawn maps with a bi-partisan commission to draw the maps instead.

In explaining his vote in support of HB1009, Rep. Micon said "In many parts of Indiana, voters don't really choose their lawmakers, lawmakers choose their voters. Having state legislative and congressional districts drawn by a non-partisan commission will create more competitive districts, bring more

qualified candidates to the electoral process and strengthen our democracy." Julia Vaughn of Common Cause Indiana said that Rep. Micon was one of only three House Democrats to vote in support of this important pro-democracy legislation. "We need more legislators like him who put the public interest before their political interest."

